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Retail Therapy: More Elora

Posted: August 16, 2008, 8:48 AM by Nathalie Atkinson
Retail Therapy



In Retail Therapy today, I explore the picturesque town of Elora, Ontario. Be sure to add these shops to your Elora itinerary:

Ogle the French antiques and stock up on holiday gifts like the inspiring, wordy collage mix-and-match pewter [Pick Up Sticks](#) jewellery at [Estate of Mind](#) (36 Mill St.); For a Gallic fix, the chic [Pariscope](#) boutique (48 Mill St. W.) imports tableware, linens, gifts and Lampe Berger from France;

Check out the Elora outpost of Milton's award-winning [Toy Shoppe of Nature's Fire](#) (40 Mill St. W., 519-849-0999,); the store is named for a Robbie Burns quote about imagination. "It's an educational and learning toy store but nature's fire sounds more fun" the sales associate explains. The toy shop works at finding unusual and fun toys, like colourful handmade wooden pull toys, yo-yos and building blocks sets from the [Toy Maker of Lunenburg](#) (from \$19.95);

- For a fine cuppa, there's [Tanabata](#) art of Japanese tea shop. All the tea is organic and there are also gifts like Japanese ceramics and green tea accessories;
- Follow the sign around the corner from Mermaid Antiques and you'll find [Handscumb Glass](#), where there are tinkling breeze chimes and tealight lamps made from glass bottles (from \$24.95), plus smaller still glass icicle ornaments (from \$9.95). The showstopping custom glass windows and panels are the stars here;
- Also a bit off the beaten path but worth the walk? [Elora Pottery & Gallery](#) (31 Church St. W.), open summer weekends or by appointment;
- On the Tuesday I visited, an intriguing antiques shop on the strip next door to Shepherd's Pub (8 Mill St. W.) was closed. I don't know its name (there's no signage whatsoever) but when I pressed my window to the glass I spotted enormous antique Canadian wooden bowls, Quebec pine furniture, hooked rugs, folk art and shelves of collectibles like orange carnival glass. I guess I'll have to make another trip to find out!

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17°

TORONTO
Partly cloudy
Wind: W at 11 km/h, Humidity: 55%

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